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## **Senate increases funding for gas-station inspections to ensure drivers get what they are paying for**

**LANSING** – The state Senate today increased funding for more inspections of gas stations' fuel pump quality and quantity, announced Sen. Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks.

At least 30 new inspectors will be hired for Michigan's motor fuel quantity and quality program in an effort to increase the accuracy of gas pumps in Michigan. Improving compliance rates to the national standard of 95 percent could save Michigan's consumers more than \$300 million annually.

"It is important that consumers receive the full amount and quality of fuel they pay for in order for their cars to run properly," Jelinek said. "Many newer cars run on higher octane levels but unfortunately some stations are selling lower-grade fuel labeled premium, which can be detrimental to car engines."

Enhancing funding for the inspection program will provide permanent consumer protection by conducting more random station inspections to catch noncompliant stations. Due to the lack of adequate staffing, the state Department of Agriculture conducts inspections only when a complaint is received.

Michigan's 2003 compliance rate was 88 percent. Of the approximately 5 billion gallons of gas pumped annually in Michigan, nearly 400 million gallons are not dispensed with the proper quality or in the proper quantity.

"The price of fuel is high enough today without consumers having to face the possibility of poorly calibrated pumps and inferior products," Jelinek said.

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